[*English*]

Central Goods Shed in Agra

1856. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a central goods shed in place of various goods sheds in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a). No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The existing facilities at Belanganj, Idgah and Jamuna Bridge goods sheds for handling goods traffic in Agra area are considered adequate.

Impact of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station on Health

1857. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'The Fall out" appearing in the Telegraph dated October 27, 1991 regarding health hazards of persons residing near the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a). Government is aware of the reports in media about certain health problems in the villages near Rajasthan Atomic Power Station.

(b) Department of Atomic Energy and expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have independently looked into the details. The radioactivity releases into the environment through the air and water routes from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station have been very low and well below the limits stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. These limits are in line with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). An Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) has been operating at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) for the past nineteen years. Radiations surveys and collection and analysis of samples of water, soil, food air and various other products have been systematically carried out in the area around RAPS to assure environmental safety. The health problems reported in some villages around RAPS have not been evident in the plant workers at RAPS or their families living in the adjacent township. Surveys conducted by expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have indicated that the health deficiencies observed were not attributable to radiation induced diseases, but on account of malnutrition, unsatisfactory hygience etc.

[*Translation*]

Pollution Caused by Vitamin 'C' Units

1858. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vitamin 'C' manufacturing

units are causing large scale pollution throughout the country;

(b) if so, the unit-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the pollution being caused by these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). In the country the indigenous manufacture of Vitamin 'C' is primarily from two units, namely M/s. Jayant Vitamins Ltd., Ratlam and M/s. Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises Ltd., Vadodara.

The effluent from M/s. Jayant Vitamins Ltd. is not meeting the prescribed standards and legal action has been initiated against the units under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. M/s. Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises Ltd. has put up appropriate pollution control facilities.

[*English*]

Women Development Corporation

1859. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities undertaken and action plan to provide better employment for women and to create sustained income generating activities for women groups of weaker sections of the society;

(b) the names of States where Women Development Corporations have so far been set up and major activities assigned/undertaken by them.

(c) the reasons where such a corporation has not yet been set up by the remaining States and the time by which it would be set up there; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to involve other women organisations engaged in Welfare/Social activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c). The main functions of the Women Development Corporation are, identification of Women entrepreneurs, preparation of a shelf of viabale projects and of providing technical consultancy services, facilitating the availability of credit through banks and other financial institutions, promotion of marketing and strengthening of Women's Cooperatives and other organisations.

These Corporations are set up by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The contribution of the Central Government is 49% of the share in equity.

So far the State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Chandigarh have set up Women Development corporations. The remaining State Governments have been requested to do so.

(d) The Department of Women and Child Development maintains a close liaision with Voluntary Organisations engaged in Social Welfare activities relating to women to en-